

**SERIAL RAPIST IN
LOGAN SQUARE 8**

**Bulls get busy
on eve of trade
deadline 12**

**Restaurant Week:
Fine city dining
on a budget 17**

**r
ed
eye**

Thursday
FEBRUARY 19, 2009

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

Mess transit

Riders could
face severe
service cuts and
fare hikes if the
CTA isn't bailed
out, officials said.

E. JASON WAMBSGANS/
TRIBUNE

**Facing a massive deficit, the CTA could be headed
toward another 'Doomsday' scenario *pages 6-7***

2do

» Get \$6 martinis at Dunlays on the Square

To see

Eat some Italian-style and thin-crust pizza, then catch a performance of "Rose and The Rime" at 8 p.m. Thursday at Chopin Theatre (1543 W. Division St.). \$15.

To sip

Drink \$6 martinis while listening to acoustic guitar music from Sue Hughey at 10 p.m. Thursday at Dunlays on the Square (3137 W. Logan Blvd.).

To parent

Parents who are willing to mentor teens in their home and unruly teens who would spend a week with another family can sign up to interview for a new show from the producers of "Supernanny" through Tuesday by e-mailing teens@ricochettelevision.com or calling 323-904-4680, ext. 1087.

To discuss

Hear insights into Barack Obama's rise to the presidency and what it means for America's cultural and political future from Jabari Asim, editor of NAACP's The Crisis magazine, at a free discussion at 6 p.m. Thursday at Harold Washington Library Center (400 S. State St.). Reservations required to 312-222-7871.



txtable

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Aye, aye
caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in Friday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "**caption**" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

Wednesday's winner:

"Frank, could you please stop using the Batman voice?" —Jeff Warner



24 11

TODAY'S FORECAST

Here comes the sun—sort of. Brrr-eezy too



FRI. 27 18
Partly sunny



SAT. 28 15
Boo, chance of snow



SUN. 31 19
Partly cloudy



MON. 37 25
Getting warmer



What's the deal?

Bring back the pearly whites

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APPLE VACATIONS

U.S. army soldiers on Wednesday patrol an area where there has been reported Taliban presence in Gandalabog, Afghanistan. GETTY IMAGES



‘A TOUGH YEAR’

MORE TROOPS HEADED TO AFGHANISTAN, BUT COMMANDER WARNS COMBAT WON’T BE EASY

Associated Press

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan on Wednesday welcomed the White House’s decision to send more combat troops, but cautioned that fighting will be difficult in the months ahead. “Even with these additional forces, I have to tell you that 2009 is going to be tough year,” Gen. David McKiernan told a Pentagon news conference.

President Obama on Tuesday approved the dispatching of 17,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan to stabilize what he called a deteriorating situation. They include an Army combat brigade and a Marine expeditionary brigade and will join the approximately 30,000 U.S. troops already there.

McKiernan said the extra troops would be sufficient for what he believes needs to be done through summer, when the fighting tends to be heaviest. He described the Obama decision as meeting about two-thirds of his overall needs in combat capability over the coming three to five years.

The White House has said it will not make further decisions about its next moves in Afghanistan until it has completed a strategic review of the war, in tandem with the Afghan government.

McKiernan said the extra Army and Marine forces will have counterinsurgency capability but also be ready to conduct training with Afghan police forces. He said they will be sent to southern Afghanistan, where he said there have been insufficient security forces to confront the insurgents.

The general described the situation in southern Afghanistan as a stalemate with Taliban insurgents. In addition to extra combat forces, more international civilian contributions are needed, McKiernan said.

McKiernan said it is possible that he will be less reliant on air power, with the addition of more ground troops. Air strikes have been blamed for civilian casualties that have angered the Afghan population.

Mmmm, mmmm ... different?

Campbell announced Wednesday that its iconic condensed tomato soup is getting a lower-sodium makeover. The soup maker is using low-sodium sea salt to modify a product that hasn’t changed much since it was introduced in 1897. The new version is scheduled to show up in supermarkets in August. **AP**

RedEye’s rejected Campbell makeover ideas

- » Introduce new Peanut Delights soup line.
- » Rename “Chunky” soups “Michael Moore” soups.
- » Replace tin cans with new see-through containers. Oooh—corn chowder! **REDEYE**

About Face-book

Associated Press

In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog **consumerist.com** pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled “Facebook’s New Terms Of Service: ‘We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.’”

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users—tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site—that this is not the case. And on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

Facebook spelled out that it “doesn’t claim rights to any of your photos or other content. We need a license in order to help you share information with your friends, but we don’t claim to own your information.”

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg also acknowledged that a “lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you.”

New York Post defends cartoon about chimp

The New York Post is standing behind a cartoon that some have interpreted as comparing President Obama to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police.

The cartoon in Wednesday’s Post by Sean Delonas shows two police officers standing over the body of a bullet-riddled chimp. One of the officers says the other, “They’ll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill.”

Civil rights activist Al Sharpton called the cartoon “troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys.”

In a statement, Post Editor-in-Chief Col Allan said: “The cartoon is a clear parody of a current news event, to wit the shooting of a violent chimpanzee in Connecticut. It broadly mocks Washington’s efforts to revive the economy. Again, Al Sharpton reveals himself as nothing more than a publicity opportunist.”

A story about the cartoon on the liberal-leaning Huffington Post Web site drew hundreds of reader responses, many calling the cartoon racist and insensitive. **AP**

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Readers ponder pedestrian safety

Dangerous city

I am quite amazed at how police officers, bus drivers and Illinois drivers ignore anything pedestrian-oriented ("Danger zones," Feb. 17 cover story). It is really not a hard concept. Other urban cities have managed to curb this issue. Until you appropriately train city workers (including bus personnel and police officers), regular drivers will continue to ignore the idea of pedestrians having the right of way.

I moved here at the end of August and walk daily, and I have not and actually do not plan on seeing any change. This is a dangerous city for pedestrians.

—EUGENE EBON, 26, SOUTH LOOP

Tougher testing

The issue of pedestrian safety should be clearly addressed when individuals take their written and driving tests.

People must understand that pedestrians have the right of way, that drivers have to stop before crossing a sidewalk and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

What strikes me as an apparent misunderstanding on the part of most drivers who use Chicago's many alleys is they seem to think that if they honk they do not have to stop at the sidewalks.

People who do not understand these concepts should fail their driving tests.

—KEN DOERNER, 49, LAKEVIEW

Ticket pedestrians

Although there are unfortunately a number of drivers that are running stop signs and red lights, there also are a number of pedestrians who are not obeying the traffic rules either. As much as the city should crack down on drivers who break the laws, the city should do the same with respect to pedestrians. Perhaps pedestrians who break the laws should receive tickets as well in order to curb this issue.

—DAVE KENDLE, 53, LINCOLN PARK

Going deep

I'm going with Chase Agnello-Dean's side ("Which pizza reigns supreme? Let's see," Great Debate column, Feb. 18), because he thinks like us true Chicagoans who love our Chicago deep-dish pizza and our city. Thin-crust pizza is for lame and weak people who don't know what a good pizza is. Chicago deep-dish pizza will always be mine and many other Chicagoans' No. 1 favorite pizza.

—ADRIAN MCGUIRE, 30, WRIGLEYVILLE



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IN A \$242M HOLE

CTA, RTA SNIPE OVER BUDGET GAP, BUT RIDERS STILL WAITING FOR FIX

Chicago Tribune

As riders brace for the possibility of major cuts in service, the CTA and the organization that oversees transit spending couldn't even agree Wednesday on the severity of a budget shortfall. And officials from both agencies clearly displayed a mutual mistrust of each other.

Solutions to avoid higher fares, service cuts or both were in short supply at a meeting of the Chicago Transit Authority Board.

The Regional Transportation Authority's top officials, who requested an opportunity to explain a public funding shortfall of

\$58 million to the CTA for the year just ended in December, instead found themselves broadsided by more bad news.

HEAVY NUMBERS

The CTA's operating budget for 2009 is \$1.3 billion. Without a bailout, the CTA would be forced to slash service, hike fares and lay off at least several thousand of its approximately 11,000 employees, officials said.

CTA Chief Financial Officer Dennis Anosike said the actual CTA deficit for last year is much worse than the RTA projected—an \$87 million hole in the budget.

Add to that the RTA's projected 2009 reduction in tax

revenues for the CTA totaling \$155 million, which could rise or fall depending on where the economy goes, and the CTA is potentially staring at red ink totaling \$242 million.

CTA Chairwoman Carole Brown asked how the RTA could expect the CTA to do anything about controlling costs for last year when it's now almost three months into the following year and the RTA is only now warning about the 2008 shortfall in collecting mass transit's share of sales taxes and real

estate transfer taxes.

"We can't lay people off retroactively or not pay suppliers" for inventory already delivered, Brown said.

Many riders appeared unsympathetic to the CTA's plight, especially in light of a fare increase this year. Others seemed unable to grasp the complexity of the huge numbers being tossed around like a fistful of coins plunked into a fare box.

"Doesn't the CTA know that people are out of work and they need to ride to look for jobs?" said Andrew Parker as he waited for a Pink Line train at the Clinton station. "And another thing: We can't afford to pay those big CTA salaries no more."

Whether it was fueled by more people relying on affordable transportation to look for work or other factors, CTA ridership increased 4 percent in January, the transit agency reported Wednesday.

CTA Acting President Dorval Carter Jr. said fare-box revenue increased because of more riders paying higher fares, but the gain had no substantial impact on the transit agency's budget problems, he said.

RTA chairman Jim Reilly told the transit board that he discussed the worsening budget outlook with then-CTA President Ron Huberman beginning in November.

"The notion that there is anybody on Earth who didn't know in October, November and December of 2008 that the economy was collapsing is preposterous," Reilly told reporters outside the CTA board meeting. "Staffs have



Blue line train derails

Blue Line service between O'Hare and Rosemont was restored early Wednesday afternoon following a "minor" derailment that

blocked train traffic in and out of O'Hare for several hours. There were no reported injuries. The cause of the derailment of the southbound train was not known. **TRIBUNE**

Wednesday on rtachicago.com.

Schlickman on Wednesday said he was unable to explain the discrepancy between the CTA budget shortfalls reported by the RTA and the CTA.

The RTA is at work in a tight credit market trying to borrow about \$120 million from a bank to help the CTA, Schlickman said.

Schlickman called on CTA officials to provide the RTA with an accurate accounting of the agency's predicament, right down to daily cash-flow issues.

Schlickman said he brought an auditor with him Wednesday to CTA headquarters "in an attempt" to get to the bottom of the cash-flow emergency.

Schlickman later said he wasn't suggesting that top CTA officials were hiding anything from the RTA, but he said cooperation at lower levels of the transit agency needed improvement.

been discussing this since early in the fall."

But a document issued by the RTA after its board approved the 2009 budget in December indicated matters were well under control.

"We are certainly in a better place today than a year ago," RTA Executive Director Steve Schlickman said in the Dec. 18 budget announcement, which still was posted



Passengers wait for their train Tuesday at the Fullerton CTA stop.

E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

Bus video spurs police investigation

Chicago Tribune

According to the clock on the video, the police officer spent 42 seconds ordering the man off the bus without success. Then he laid hands on him.

The man, who CTA officials said boarded the bus without paying the fare, argued with the officer and refused to leave. Eventually the cop grabbed him, called for backup, then struggled with him and cursed him until two more officers showed up and hustled him away.

Spencer Thayer, 29, who runs chicagocopwatch.org, recorded the incident with a cell phone camera. Soon it was on YouTube, and the Chicago Police Department and the Independent Police Review Authority had opened



investigations into the incident.

In the video, the man refused to leave, slurring his words a bit as he insisted he had paid his fare. Thirty seconds into the encounter, the officer threatened to take him to jail if he didn't move. Finally, he grabbed him, shook him and shoved him into the window. The man still didn't comply and then stood up.

The officer started to repeat, "You want to fight me?" as they struggled. "Get off this [expletive] bus right

now!" he shouted as he knocked the man against the window again.

Thayer said he believed the officer should not have touched the man before backup arrived. But he was reluctant to assign much blame either way.

Solutions to CTA's woes



going public

KYRA KYLES

kkyles@tribune.com

Anybody experiencing "Doomsday" déjà vu?

"Going Public" certainly is, as the CTA—along with Pace and Metra—bellies up to budget woes again, a little more than a year after Springfield legislators swooped in to try to save the transit agencies from a \$530 million shortfall.

Now, the CTA again finds itself looking down the barrel of a projected budget deficit, this time to the tune of \$242 million, the Tribune reported.

In a word: Yipes.

But let's look on the brighter side. There are possible CTA solutions ripe for exploration. "Going Public" talked to local mass transit experts to get their takes on this latest tragedy coming down the tracks. While our experts agreed that a more stable source of state funding source is the true key to permanently solving CTA woes, they suggested two other ways to save the CTA.

BYOB: Bring your own bus

Those jolly red double-decker London Buses, though emblematic, have not been in government hands in 10 years, according to Ian Savage, a faculty member in the economics department and the Transportation Center of Northwestern University. Savage suggested the CTA imitate the model, outsourcing its bus operations to reduce labor costs and potentially even make a profit by leasing its buses to the private entity.

University of Illinois at Chicago expert Joseph DiJohn also suggested bus operation privatization as a possibility, but only for "lighter-density" routes that run late at night or are less used than others.

"Perhaps sub-contracting with a van or shuttle service would save money and improve service," said DiJohn, director of UIC's Metropolitan Transportation Support Initiative.

Fare play

Still smarting from the fare hike that went into effect January? You might not want to hear this, but the CTA may need to increase rates more regularly to reap their fare share from riders, Savage and DiJohn said.

"Their fares have held near constant for at least the past 10 years, reducing their revenue while they continue to expand service," said Savage, adding that the agency tends to then bump them up in times of budgetary emergency. Both he and DiJohn recommended modest but incremental increases moving forward, coupled with a secure source of state funding.

GOT ANY CTA SOLUTIONS?

Share them with us, or just vent to the depths of your train and bus bile, at goingpublic@tribune.com. Please include your full name, age and neighborhood in case we decide to run your comment in the paper.



The suspect in three sexual assaults is shown in a surveillance image provided by the Chicago Police Department.

Police searching for serial rapist

Chicago Tribune

Authorities are looking for a man police said is responsible for three separate sexual assaults on the Near Northwest Side, the most recent of which occurred early Wednesday morning in Logan Square.

The latest attack occurred about 2:30 a.m. in the 2100 block of North Maplewood, when a woman walking home from the Western Blue Line was grabbed by a man with a knife and forced into a secluded area, where he sexually assaulted her, police said.

Detectives believe the same man perpetrated two previous assaults in the area, because of similarities in the method of the attack and the description given by the victim, police said Wednesday.

The previous sexual assault occurred on Feb. 5 in the 2300 block of West Moffat, three blocks away from Wednesday morning's attack.

Another sexual assault linked to the man occurred Sept. 26 of last year in the 1700 block of North Marshfield, about a mile away from the two February assaults.

The suspect is described by police as a black male, 20-30 years old, 5-foot-6-inches to 5-foot-8 tall, 180-200 pounds with black hair, brown eyes, a medium to dark complexion and a goatee. He was described as wearing an oversized dark jacket in Wednesday's assault.

Anyone with information is asked to call Grand Central Area detectives at 312-746-8282.



Sen. Roland Burris is swarmed by reporters as he leaves his South Side home Wednesday.
MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

UNDER FIRE

BURRIS' FUTURE 'IN QUESTION,' DURBIN SAYS

Chicago Tribune

In a feisty speech Wednesday in Chicago, Sen. Roland Burris defended himself against growing questions and multiple probes about the circumstances surrounding his appointment by former Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

"If I had done the things I've been accused of, I'd be too embarrassed to stand up here," Burris said.

"Stop the rush to judgment. You know the real Roland. I have done nothing wrong and I have absolutely nothing to hide," he told the City Club of Chicago, a gathering of civic leaders, politicians and businesspeople.

Burris said he would cooperate "in any way I can" with a perjury review by the Sangamon County state's attorney into his sworn testimony as well as the preliminary investigation opened by the Senate Ethics Committee.

"I welcome the scrutiny," Burris said.

Burris' own words are at the center of the firestorm, set off by his evolving explanation in a series of sworn statements that gradually revealed more and more contacts with allies of Blagojevich.

On Monday night, speaking to reporters in a largely uninterrupted explanation, Burris disclosed for the first time that he had sought unsuccessfully to raise money for Blagojevich at the same time he was

expressing his interest in the Senate seat to a number of the governor's allies.

The disclosure called into question his longstanding assertion that there was never any discussion of him doing favors for the governor, who had sole authority to decide the appointment to the Senate seat Burris coveted.

Burris said he hopes to be judged in the Senate on whether his actions improve the quality of life for citizens of Illinois. He talked about his early votes in the Senate, where he's served little more than a month.

Sen. Dick Durbin said Wednesday that Burris' political future "is in question" amid growing concern about his contacts with Blagojevich.

The comments from Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, came hours after Burris, his Illinois colleague, pleaded with fellow politicians and Illinoisans to give him the benefit of the doubt.

But Durbin, who was traveling on official Senate business in Turkey, told the Chicago Tribune the daily revelations about what Burris did and who he talked to among Blagojevich insiders are a serious problem.

"I am troubled by this, and I hope he will call in some advisers he trusts and gets some advice about what to do next," Durbin said of Burris. "At this point, his future in the Senate seat is in question."

CHANGING STORY

Last month: In sworn testimony to Illinois House lawmakers in Springfield, Sen. Roland Burris says he had no inappropriate contact with representatives and friends of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Last week: In a quietly filed affidavit, Burris acknowledges previously undisclosed contacts with Blagojevich insiders. He maintains he refused to help raise money for Blagojevich.

Monday: Burris admits he was asking about Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat while also trying to raise money for Blagojevich at the request of Blagojevich's brother and campaign chief, Robert.



An aviation mechanic finishes up Wednesday after working on the small airplane that landed safely on the frozen surface of Grays Lake late Tuesday afternoon. DAVID TROTMAN-WILKINS/TRIBUNE

Pilot skates by with ice landing

The pilot who safely landed on frozen Grays Lake this week had rented the single-engine Cessna from a Wheeling flight school and was with his teenage son, an instructor at the school said Wednesday.

“Everyone’s safe,” said Dave Klopfleisch, a safety officer and instructor with the Palwaukee Flyers, based at Chicago Executive Airport. “I guess they had a power loss and decided to put it down on the hard ice.”

With the Federal Aviation Administration investigating, Klopfleisch declined to name the pilot.

It’s unclear where the pilot was headed, according to the instructor and FAA

spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory. He was attempting to land at Campbell Airport in Round Lake, but it’s not clear if that was because of the engine problems or if it was his original destination, McCutcheon said.

“I think he and his son were just out flying,” Klopfleisch said.

The Cessna 150L landed on the ice toward the middle of north suburban Grays Lake about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Cory said.

“There’s a long-standing aviation phrase that says, ‘Every landing that you walk away from is a good one,’” Klopfleisch said.

The plane was dismantled Wednesday and hauled away on a truck, McCutcheon said.

Poodle puppy swiped from store

A man and a woman with children in tow distracted the manager of an Arlington Heights pet store and stole a poodle puppy valued at nearly \$900, police said this afternoon. A surveillance camera captured the man as he grabbed the 9-week-old toy poodle from its cage Tuesday night and hid it under his sweat shirt before leaving Happiness Is Pets, 15 W. Golf Rd., police said.

Two found hanged at hospitals

Two people died after hanging themselves at separate Chicago hospitals Tuesday, officials said Wednesday. A 54-year-old patient at Northwestern Memorial Hospital was found hanging in a bathroom there shortly before 7 p.m., Chicago police said. Separately, a 37-year-old man was found hanged at St. Joseph Hospital, 2900 N. Lake Shore Drive. After autopsies performed Wednesday, both deaths were ruled suicides.

Man found fatally shot in vacant lot

An 18-year-old man was found fatally shot in a vacant lot on the South Side Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. Englewood District officers responded to a call of shots fired in the 1500 block of West 58th Street about 1:15 p.m., said police spokeswoman Officer JoAnn Taylor. The Cook County Medical Examiner’s office reported the unidentified man was found shot in the head.

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Obama unveils mortgage bailout

Associated Press

6 MESA, Ariz. Seeking to tackle “a crisis unlike any we’ve ever known,” President Obama unveiled an ambitious \$75 billion plan Wednesday to keep as many as 9 million Americans from losing their homes to foreclosure.

The housing crisis that began last year set many other factors in motion and helped lead to the current, widening recession.

But while talking in broad strokes about the importance of the issue to the economy as a whole, the president took care not to miss the pain that the housing problems are causing in individual families.

“The American Dream is being tested by a home mortgage crisis that not only threatens the stability of our economy but also the stability of families and neighborhoods,” he said. “While this crisis is vast, it begins just one house and one family at a time.”

More expensive than expected, Obama’s plan aims to keep between 7 million and 9 million people from foreclosure. Of the nearly 52 million U.S. homeowners with a mortgage, about 13.8 million, or nearly 27 percent, owe more on their mortgage than their house is now worth, according to Moody’s **economy.com**.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told reporters relief would be almost instantaneous, basically as soon as rules are published March 4.

BLEAK OUTLOOK

The Fed on Wednesday downgraded its projections for the country’s economic performance this year, predicting the economy will shrink and unemployment will go up. Under the new projections, the unemployment rate will rise to between 8.5 percent and 8.8 percent.



Hats off to the pope

5 VATICAN CITY Pope Benedict XVI reacts Wednesday as he loses his skullcap, blown off by a gust of wind, during the weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. AP

Federal crime stats released

WASHINGTON Hispanics outnumber other ethnic groups among criminal offenders in the federal courts due in part to the crackdown on illegal immigration, according to a study from The Pew Hispanic Center released Wednesday.

40%: Percent of federal offenders who were Hispanic in 2007, compared with 27 percent white, 23 percent black and 10 percent from other groups

23%: Percent who are Hispanic in 1991; whites comprised 43 percent that year

DIGIT

\$8 million

Amount in damages Philip Morris was ordered by a jury to pay to the Florida widow of a smoker who died of lung cancer. The case could set a standard for some 8,000 similar Florida lawsuits.

Owner: Chimp not on Xanax

1 As authorities considered criminal charges, the Stamford, Conn., woman whose 200-pound domesticated chimpanzee went berserk and mauled a friend backtracked Wednesday on whether she gave the animal the anti-anxiety drug Xanax. The 14-year-old chimp, Travis, was shot dead by police Monday.



Travis

CSI: Facebook

2 The Auburn, Maine, police department is crediting Facebook with helping solve a vandalism case. After three teens broke into a hotel spa last week, police posted images from the video on the department’s Facebook page. Detectives then received several tips from users who recognized the boys.

Blackout on young dad details

3 You can read the tantalizing tale but not its ending, a British judge has ruled. A media blackout was imposed Wednesday on reporting new details in the case of a 13-year-old boy who reportedly fathered a healthy newborn girl with his 15-year-old girlfriend.

Coffee at risk?

4 The future for Brazil’s farm sector could be grim, with hotter temperatures pushing crops past its borders. So Brazilian scientists and agronomists are rushing to deter the effects of climate change on the world’s biggest coffee producer and second-ranking soybean grower.



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sports





John Salmons
GETTY IMAGES

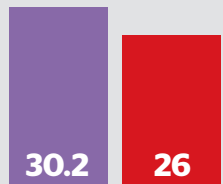
THE TRADING OF THE BULLS

Coming & going

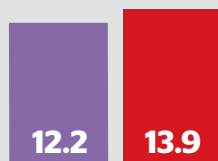
Wednesday's trade involved six players, but how does it break down statistically? Here's a look at what the Bulls are giving up and gaining.

Key:  Acquired players' statistics  Traded players' statistics

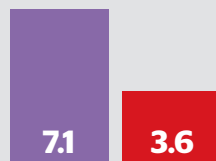
SOURCE: NBA.COM. STATISTICS ARE FOR 2008-'09 SEASON



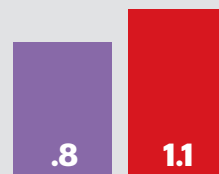
POINTS
COMING: 30.2 per game
GOING: 26 per game



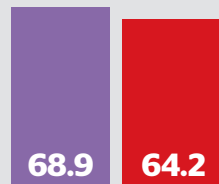
REBOUNDS
COMING: 12.2 per game
GOING: 13.9 per game



ASSISTS
COMING: 7.1 per game
GOING: 3.6 per game



BLOCKS
COMING: .8 per game
GOING: 1.1 per game



MINUTES
COMING: 68.9 per game
GOING: 64.2 per game



Brad Miller
GETTY IMAGES

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Canine hot line

What do you think of these Bulls trades? Send Whizzer your thoughts via e-mail to redeyesports@tribune.com or just text "whiz" and your comment followed by your name, age and neighborhood to 47383.

Bulls bring back center Brad Miller in six-player trade

Associated Press

The Bulls acquired center Brad Miller and John Salmons from the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday for four players, including forwards Drew Gooden and Andres Nocioni.

Sacramento also got Michael Ruffin and Cedric Simmons in the deal, but immediately traded Ruffin to the Portland Trail Blazers for forward Ike Diogu and cash.

The Bulls gave up some salary flexibility to acquire Miller, a two-time All-Star who played 105 games with the Bulls early in his career. Although he hasn't played since Jan. 30 because of a hip injury, Miller—who's averaging 11.9 points and 8.0 rebounds—showed flashes of his best game earlier in the season.

Salmons, a versatile swingman and Sacramento's second-leading scorer with 18.3 points, also could be a prominent contributor for the Bulls. The disappointing Bulls apparently still are committed to chasing a playoff berth despite starting the day seven games below .500.

"You always hate to lose good guys and good players, and that's difficult, but we're adding two guys that we like a lot," Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro said before the team's game at Milwaukee. "I think we're adding two really good pieces that we're excited about, and hopefully we can get them here soon and get them acclimated as soon as possible."

The 32-year-old Miller joined the Kings in 2003 and spent 5½ years as their starting center when he wasn't slowed by injuries.

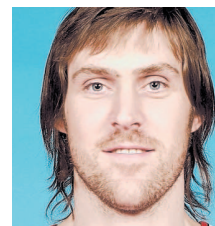
"I'm definitely excited for the opportunity to go home and go to a team that I've already played for," said Miller, an Indiana native. "I have a lot of friends and family back there. The Bulls are right on the verge of getting into the playoffs, and winning is something very important to me right now."

Although Miller provides a combination of defensive size and outside shooting ability, the Bulls might get an even bigger lift from Salmons, who's having a quietly outstanding year with 4.2 rebounds and 3.7 assists in addition to his steady scoring.

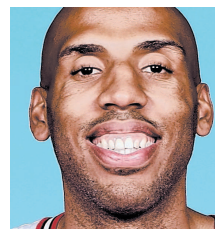
The Bulls didn't learn they had lost four teammates until the team bus pulled away from Chicago for the short trip to Milwaukee. While forward Luol Deng seemed dismayed by the trade of Nocioni, his good friend, other Bulls were excited by the move, with Ben Gordon saying it shows the franchise's commitment to a playoff run.



Gooden



Nocioni



Ruffin



Simmons

Bulls 113, Bucks 104

MILWAUKEE Kirk Hinrich scored a season-high 31 points, including three straight baskets during a critical stretch in the fourth quarter to help the suddenly short-handed Bulls beat the Milwaukee Bucks 113-104 on Wednesday night.

Luol Deng added 21 for the Bulls, playing with a short bench after trading four players to Sacramento earlier in the day. **AP**



**watch
dog**

WHIZZER
redeyesports@tribune.com

I see the Bulls decided to make a trade, even though they started the day seven games under .500. And look here, only a few hours later they beat Milwaukee and moved to six games under .500. Is this the start to a magical second-half playoff run? Don't jerk us around, Bulls! Here now, my TV picks.



NHL
Blackhawks at Florida
6:30 p.m. **CSN**

I sure hope the Blackhawks enjoy that warm Florida weather. Not that I'm bitter.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wisconsin at Indiana
8 p.m. **ESPN**

Two of the Big Ten's worst. A real coup for ESPN.

NEWS
Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel
8 p.m. **HBO**

Tonya Harding joins Bryant Gumbel. Still around? No, not her. Bryant Gumbel.

Trade-in

Fox chief meteorologist Amy Freeze was the first female sideline reporter for Major League Soccer. See her on the 9 p.m. news and at 10:10 p.m.

TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@tribune.com	LEO EBERSOLE lebersole@tribune.com	TRACY SWARTZ tswartz@tribune.com	AMY FREEZE redeyesports@tribune.com	BRIAN MOORE brmoore@tribune.com
1 Why does Florida have two NHL teams?	Both have been to the Cup finals (Tampa won) since the Hawks. That's why.	Because it's popular. Retirees have been convinced they're watching Olympic figure skating.	My state loves beards. Especially in the Miami and political areas.	Ever since the hanging chad ordeal, there are all kind of backup systems in place down there.	There is so little to do there, Floridians actually seek out hockey. Strange, I know.
2 Who else could help the Bulls?	St. Jude—The Patron Saint of Lost Causes.	Shaqtus. Provides much-needed height and can poke Kobe's eyes out.	Referees. In these tough times, we need to rely more on whistleblowers.	Moses (not Malone—the guy in the Bible).	If we're bringing back Brad Miller, why not Ron Artest too?
3 Does Jose Canseco deserve an apology from baseball?	Nope. Just take the "lying" part out of "lying scumbag" and we'll call it even.	How about a pat on the backne instead?	You can stuff your sorries in a small sack, mister.	Only if he agrees to ink a third tell-all book.	No, but the guy who told Jimmy those pills would help him grow hair should apologize.
4 What would a cycling race like the Tour of California be like in Chicago?	It'd be like the marathon only far worse traffic for those of us who don't give a damn.	First-place gets the gold; second-place gets side-swiped by an open car door.	More bumpy than Jimmy's first time. I hear it's bad when it freezes.	Today (wind chill -10) ... insensible. But on July 26 for the "Crit" ... bliss.	Even if Lance is in it, a Chicago bike messenger would win. He'd cut off everyone else.
5 How is the economic stimulus plan going to help sports?	The Yankees will tear down their new stadium and build a newer one.	Billions have been pumped into updating the "Jock Jams" playlist. PUUUUMP UP THE JAMS!	Hopefully now we can get rid of junk Bonds.	Maybe someone will finally have enough money to make Manny Ramirez happy.	Pacman Jones could open his own line of strip clubs.



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Thome wants 600 HRs

GLENDAL, Ariz. Jim Thome seems a bit wistful about the ritual known as Spring Training.

The White Sox designated hitter and No. 14 home-run hitter of all time is entering his 20th spring. He's 38, and on Wednesday said he'd like to play at least two more seasons and try to pass the 600-homer mark. He has 541 entering the season.

Thome said he's trying to answer questions on aging honestly. At the end of the last season, he said, he felt worn down.

"Your body, as you get older, you feel different," Thome said. "Still, I feel good now."

Thome is coming off a year in which he hit .245 with 34 homers and 90 RBIs.

"I would like to hit 600 homers. I would love to win a World Series," Thome said.

Derrek Lee
AP



Derrek Lee's 'good swings'

MESA, Ariz. With only five home runs after the All-Star Game last year, Derrek Lee enters the new season with a renewed focus.

"He needs to get the ball in the air a little more to hit more home runs," manager Lou Piniella said. "He hits a lot of balls hard and on the line, so to hit more home runs he needs to elevate the ball more."

"He certainly has the power and the bat speed to do it, but I don't have an answer on why [his homers decreased from 46 in 2005 to 20 last season]. I would think the wrist injury he had [in 2006] hasn't helped the situation."

The game plan Lee worked on Wednesday with hitting coach Gerald Perry had nothing to do with adding to his power numbers. "We're not worried about home runs at all," Lee said. "Just going to try to have good at-bats. Home runs are a byproduct of taking a good swing."

Lee was as stumped as anyone by the way the Cubs fizzled out in the playoffs two years running.

"Did our season really end?" Lee asked himself. "That's how I felt the last two years."

"You get questions from friends and fans, like 'What happened?' I really don't have an answer for them."

CUBS HITS

The family of TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts will sell 34 million of its shares in the company to help finance the family's bid to buy the Cubs. Ameritrade announced the agreement Wednesday. Ameritrade agreed to pay the Ricketts family \$11.85 per share.

Last month, the Cubs' owners at Tribune Co. chose to enter exclusive negotiations with the Ricketts family.

» Billy Joel and Elton John added a second Wrigley Field show—on July 16—after selling out their first date, according to Crain's Chicago Business.

People who purchased tickets to the July 21 show may swap them for seats at the July 16 show, the Cubs said in a statement. Tickets may be exchanged for seats in comparable locations, but may not be upgraded. The deadline to swap tickets is Saturday.

HOMETOWN HITS



Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher apparently had a happy Valentine's Day. The Las Vegas Journal Review reports Urlacher was spotted at The Bank, a nightclub in Sin City's Bellagio, with former George Clooney girlfriend Sarah Larson, who once was a cocktail waitress at The Palms. "They were holding hands, definitely on a Valentine's Day date," a spy told the paper.



The Blackhawks placed Patrick Sharp and goalie Nikolai Khabibulin on the injured list Wednesday.



PENN STATE 38, NO. 18 ILLINOIS 33

Talor Battle made four free throws in the final 16 seconds to lead Penn State to a 38-33 victory over No. 18 Illinois on Wednesday night. Both teams opened with their worst halves of the season as Penn State led 17-15 at the break.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

- » Wolves 3, Iowa 2 (OT)
- » Northwestern 72, Ohio St. 69
- » Illinois St. 74, Wichita St. 59
- » Illinois-Chicago 77, Wright St. 66
- » Loyola 67, Detroit 41
- » Central Michigan 63, N. Illinois 44
- » Indiana St. 78, S. Illinois 72
- » Tennessee-Martin 76, E. Illinois 109

Chicago sports site coming

ESPN believes Chicago has big enough shoulders for another local sports outlet, as it will launch its first Web site devoted to local sports fans. **ESPNChicago.com** will provide a "24/7 Chicago sports news operation" starting in April, said Marc Horine, a vice president with ESPN digital media.

Lance's bike recovered

Lance Armstrong's time-trial bike was found Wednesday, four days after it disappeared from the Team Astana truck after he used it before Stage 1 of the Tour of California. Officers said a local resident brought the custom bike, worth about \$10,000, to police headquarters. Armstrong remains in fourth place overall.

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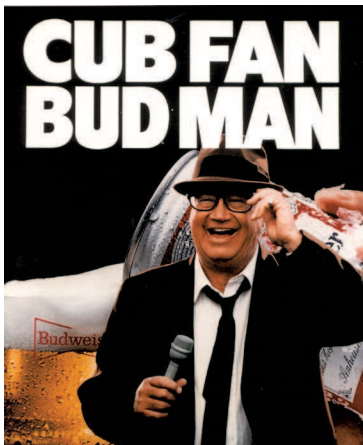


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11th Annual Worldwide Toast to Harry Caray

Here's to Harry!

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101 *Years Since Cubs Won the World Series • Countries Participating • Gallon Glass of Budweiser • Cent Budweisers • Harry Lookalikes • Celebrity Tributes*

Stop by one of the official Toast Locations to raise your glass to Harry at 7pm tonight. Visit herestoharry.com for a complete list of toasting locations in all 50 states and 101 countries!

Win Four Cubs Tickets in Harry's Seats and a Trio of Signed Baseballs—Ernie Banks, Ryne Sandberg and Lou Piniella

The first 101 fans to arrive for the Toast at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse in Chicago, Rosemont or Lombard or Harry Caray's Tavern in Wrigleyville will receive a complimentary replica pair of Harry's signature glasses and "Cub Fan, Bud Man" hat. At Harry's in downtown Chicago, fans who go above and beyond to look like Harry can compete to win the Cubs tickets and autographed baseballs. The *Best Harry* winner will be selected by Dutchie Caray, Ernie Banks and Cubs Chairman Crane Kenney immediately following the Toast.

Celebrate with \$1.01 Budweisers

Available all day at Harry's in Chicago, Lombard, Rosemont or Wrigleyville.



Be Part of WLS 890 AM's *The Roe Conn Show* Live Broadcast

The show will broadcast live from Harry's Bar in Chicago from 5:00p-7:05p. Dutchie Caray, Ernie Banks, Crane Kenney, John McDonough, Marv Levy, Ron Kittle and Richard Roeper will also be on hand for the Toast.

Listen to Audio Recordings of 101 Celebrities Toasting Harry

Celebrity toasters include Will Ferrell, Jim Belushi, Randy Jackson, Ben Vereen, Brian Williams, Frank Caliendo, Taylor Hicks, Ernie Banks, Ryne Sandberg, Geovany Soto, Lou Piniella, Bobby Hull and Bob Costas. The celebrity toasts will be aired throughout *The Roe Conn Show* this afternoon and can also be heard online at herestoharry.com.



Holy Cow!
herestoharry.com





February FIXe

Score lunch and dinner savings with Restaurant Week's prix-fixe menus

By M. Kathleen Pratt

Even if you're the sort who rarely needs an excuse to dine out, in the middle of February, a little nudge doesn't hurt. When that nudge includes real savings and a chance to sample new dishes, it's called Chicago Restaurant Week, and it kicks off Friday. The second-time celebration of eating out in Chicago highlights special three-course prix-fixe menus and special prices—\$22 at lunch and \$32 at dinner—at more than 130 restaurants. Reservation books are filling up fast (this weekend's booked solid at many spots), but it's not too late to get in on the action.

Chicago Restaurant Week
Friday-Feb. 27
eatitupchicago.com

One Sixtyblue

1400 W. Randolph St. 312-850-0303

Dinner

Entrees at this ritzy West Loop spot typically average \$25, putting it among Restaurant Week's best values. Plus, this is your chance to sample the double dose of fresh kitchen talent as executive chef Michael McDonald and pastry chef Stephanie Prida offer hits from the regular menu.

Menu highlights: Chicken and biscuits (homemade biscuits, braised kale, sauteed Amish chicken breast and deep-fried slow-poached roulade with foie gras sauce); sticky toffee date cake with poached seckel pear, clementines and mascarpone cream
Best bet for reservations: Tuesday or Wednesday dinner

Le Lan

749 N. Clark St. 312-280-9100

Dinner

Executive chef Chad Starling only recently took the reins at this classy French-Asian River North spot previously helmed by Bill Kim (Urban Belly). Size up his skills when you sample Restaurant

Week specials, all slight variations on items from the regular menu.

Menu highlights: Soba noodle salad with marinated Chinese eggplant and basil seed vinaigrette; Thai chile-smoked hanger steak with coconut polenta, braised winter greens and cilantro vinaigrette

Best bets for reservations: Sunday-Friday dinner

Aigre Doux

230 W. Kinzie St. 312-329-9400

Lunch and dinner

Mohammad Islam and Malika Ameen, the husband-and-wife culinary team behind this River North spot where Michelle Obama has been spotted on multiple occasions, are cooking up seasonal specials you won't find on the regular menu—including some decadent desserts courtesy of Ameen.

Menu highlights: Pulled lamb penne with sauteed eggplant and roasted tomato vinaigrette (lunch); maple flan with apple compote (dinner)

Best bets for reservations: Monday-Friday lunch

Lockwood

17 E. Monroe St. 312-917-3404

Lunch and dinner

Executive chef (and avid blogger: thepickledtongue.com) Phillip Foss turns out luxurious cuisine at this chichi restaurant in the Palmer House Hilton. Don't save it for a special occasion when you can go this week and save well into the double digits on favorites from the regular menu.

Menu highlights: Scottish salmon on a pretzel bun with braised endive, pears and whole-grain mustard (lunch); drunken risotto, soaked in merlot and cooked with bacon and wild mushrooms (dinner)

Best bets for reservations: Early evenings and after 9 p.m.

Farmerie 58

58 E. Ontario St. 312-440-1818

Lunch and dinner

This River North spot went through some kitchen shake-ups shortly after opening last fall, but now that executive chef Nathan Kosakowski has settled in, it's the perfect time to sample his menu. He makes it easy: The Restaurant Week menu is basically a compilation of

Farmerie's most popular dishes.

Menu highlights: Pasta with wild boar Italian sausage, rapini, tomato, basil and pecorino cheese (lunch); pork chop with cranberry stuffing, apple chutney, roasted fingerling potatoes and sauteed rapini (dinner)

Best bet for a reservation: Monday lunch or dinner

The Gage

24 S. Michigan Ave. 312-372-4243

Lunch and dinner

Executive chef Dirk Flanigan's food just keeps getting more interesting, making this Loop gastropub worth a Restaurant Week visit even if you've been there before—especially because nearly everything on the menu is a Restaurant Week exclusive.

Menu highlights: Grilled Great Lakes trout with Tuscan kale and prosciutto vinaigrette (lunch); slow-roasted shoulder of Gunthrop farms pork with Peruvian beans, creamed celery and caraway cabbage vinaigrette (dinner)

Best bet for a reservation: Thursday dinner

M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER. KPRATT@TRIBUNE.COM



The Gage
FILE FOR METROMIX

Restaurant Week wars

Restaurant Week isn't the only game in town. More than a dozen other spots are taking part in the competing Chicago Chef Week, offering \$22 (lunch) and \$32 (dinner) menus Sunday-Feb. 27.

Adobo Grill: dinner

Blackbird: lunch

BOKA: dinner

Green Zebra: dinner

Hub 51: lunch and dinner

Perennial: dinner

Landmark Grill and Lounge: dinner

Lockwood: lunch and dinner

Mado: dinner

Old Town Brasserie: dinner

Province: lunch and dinner

Sepia: lunch and dinner

Sola: dinner

Spring: dinner

Vinci: dinner

Vermilion: dinner

*Find restaurant addresses and phone numbers at metromix.com

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best bets

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and asparagus
yakitori, and
other menu
items paired
with soave, syrah
and additional
vintages from
Heritage Wine
Company. 6 p.m.
\$15.

thu
19

Holy cow

Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse, 33 W. Kinzie St. 312-828-0966.

Raise a glass en mass at the **11th Annual Worldwide Toast to
Harry Caray** on the anniversary of the famed sportscaster's

passing. Prep your pipes for a rendition of "Take Me Out to the
Ballgame" with 101-cent pints of Budweiser (a nod to the Cubs' 101st
anniversary without a World Series win). Get there early — the first
101 attendees receive Caray-style glasses and hats. 7 p.m. No cover.

Work your mac

Goose Island Wrigleyville, 3535 N. Clark St. 773-832-9040.

Twenty professional and amateur chefs, including Giuseppe Tentori
(Boka), Chris Pandel (The Bristol) and Stephanie Izard (winner of
Bravo's "Top Chef" Season 4), dish up samples of their best mac 'n'
cheese for the title of Macdaddy at **Smackdown '09**. Includes appe-
tizers, beer, a DJ and a special Mactini created by mixologist Adam
Seger (Nacional 27). Proceeds benefit the Organic School Project, an
organization that fights childhood obesity. 7 p.m. \$50-\$75.

Bewitched

Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St. 773-251-2195.

The House Theatre of Chicago is poised to cast a spell with its new
show "**Rose and the Rime**," a grown-up fairy tale by Chris Mathews,
Jake Minton and Nathan Allen. The story follows the adventures
of a young girl who discovers the power of magic while searching
for the witch responsible for placing a winter-inducing curse on
her small town. 8 p.m. Through April 11. \$15 for previews through
Saturday; \$25-\$29 regular run.

fri
20

Y not?

Y, 224 W. Ontario St.

Improve your look from head to toe when Sheque Chicago
hosts a **Ladies' Night at Y**. Browse jewelry and handbags from

DressUp Boutique and sit pretty for manicures, massages, make-
overs and waxing treatments. Keep your spirits up with appetizers
and vodka cocktails from 42 Below. 7 p.m. \$25-\$35. 773-510-5364.

Hey, bartender

The Underground, 56 W. Illinois St. 312-294-8557.

More than 20 local media celebs serve up cocktails at **Tickled Pink**,
a benefit for the Breast Cancer Network of Strength. The staff-for-
a-night includes RedEye's Eye Contact columnist Liz Crokin and
WGN anchors Dina Bair, Tom Negovan and Pat Tomasulo, among
others. Includes a premium open bar, appetizers, late-night snacks
and a DJ. 7 p.m. \$95-\$120.

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO **METROMIX.COM**.

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For questions, comments
and story ideas, contact
Matt McGuire, editor,
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THURSDAY

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Chili peppers and white beans

TUESDAY

GUMBO STYLE CHILI
In honor of Fat Tuesday,
with okra and andouille sausage

FRIDAY

FOUR ALARM FARMER
Meatless garden vegetable
and dried ancho chilies

WEDNESDAY

CHICAGO FIREHOUSE CHILI
Ground sirloin, Guatemalan insanity
peppers, beans, melted cheddar

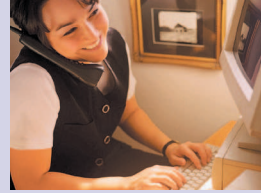
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Not your average Joe's

By M. Kathleen Pratt

About two weeks ago, the father-son team of Vijay and Aatish Puniani embarked on an ambitious mission in the South Loop: Bring Indian food to the Chicago masses.

Their secret weapon? Chutney Joe's, a fast-casual spot with a tightly edited menu of Indian favorites—basically Chipotle for a post-“Slumdog Millionaire” America.

The menu lists just four meat dishes and four vegetarian dishes (two of which also are vegan), plus a couple of appetizers and biryani rice. Though everything is prepared daily from fresh ingredients, some dishes, like the chicken tikka masala, lack the depth we expect from made-from-scratch Indian, and the naan suffers from lack of a tandoori oven (it's also one of the only menu items not made in-house). Other dishes, like the lamb rogan josh, could hold their own on Devon Avenue.

Don't worry about going back to the office in a sweat. Heat levels are moderate, though a few dishes, including the pork vindaloo, manage to deliver a healthy kick. If it's too much for you, every table is set with a card of tips on how

to cut the heat: “Mix with rice” or “Add yogurt sauce.” Unless you've been keeping to a diet of nothing but hamburger buns and 2 percent milk, you'll likely find it a bit rudimentary. But

the Punianis haven't missed anything in their effort to recruit the uninitiated.

Even the ordering process eliminates some of the guesswork involved with the typically lengthy menus at traditional Indian spots. It's set up sort of like an Indian buffet, except you're not the one loading up your plate, and there are no belt-busting return trips.

For \$5.99, you can order a *desi* bowl (any dish over basmati rice) or plate (any dish with naan), but the best—and most popular—deal is the \$7.99 create-a-meal combo, which includes any two dishes plus rice or naan and as many chutneys as you'd like on the side. At prices like these, Chutney Joe's might succeed in the quest for world vindaloo domination.

M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER. KPRATT@TRIBUNE.COM

2 for \$20

Chutney Joe's

511 S. State St.
312-341-9755



Chutney Joe's
BARRY BRECHEISEN FOR METROMIX



It's Our Pleasure to Serve You				
DATE	SERVER	PERSONS	GRATUITY	CHECK NO.
		TABLE NO.		039876
1	Create-a-meal with pork vindaloo,			
2	garbanzo masala, naan: \$7.99			
3	Desi bowl with rogan josh: \$5.99			
4	Two cups hot masala tea (\$1.49			
5	each): \$2.98			
6	+ TAX: \$1.95			
7				
8	TOTAL: \$18.91			
9				
10				

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Two years ago, U.S. Navy personnel and their families assigned to the Astagi Navy base, home of the U.S.S. Kittyhawk, were treated to a rare experience when Terry Fleming and his local Irish-American teacher and assistant director of the Orange County Symphony and Mike Tiffany, bass, a computer engineer. The band has been playing the length and breadth of California. Two years ago, U.S. Navy personnel and their families assigned to the Astagi Navy base, home of the U.S.S. Kittyhawk, were treated to a rare experience when Terry Fleming and his local Irish-American teacher and assistant director of the Orange County Symphony and Mike Tiffany, bass, a computer engineer. The band has been playing the length and breadth of California.

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FEB. 16

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THE BEER BISTRO

\$4 draft of the month, \$5 martinis, half-price appetizers (4:30 p.m.); 1061 W. Madison St. 312-433-0013.

BLUE BAYOU

10 p.m.: Red Hot Annie hosts a Mardi Gras party featuring sexy dance performances atop the bar, plus Cajun food and drink specials. No cover; 3734 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-3300.

CAT'S MEOW

25 cent wings, \$2 cheese quesadillas, \$2 PBR drafts, \$3 Jameson shots; 2700 W. Chicago Ave. 773-489-6998.

CLEOS

\$4.99 gourmet pizzas; 1935 W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-5600.

THE FRANKLIN TAP

\$2 Blue Moon pints, half-price appetizers with drink purchase after 6 p.m.; 325 S. Franklin St. 312-212-3262.

GASLIGHT BAR

\$3 Blue Moon and Coors Light drafts, \$5 boneless wings, \$5 wraps; 2426 N. Racine Ave. 773-929-7759.

HARRY CARAY'S TAVERN

7 p.m.: 11th Annual Worldwide Toast to Harry Caray. Join fans across the globe in raising a glass to the famed sports announcer on the anniversary of his passing. In honor of the Cubs 101st season without a World Series title, the first 101 attendees receive a free pair of Harry glasses and hat. Specials include 101-cent Budweiser drafts. Prices vary; 3551 N. Sheffield Ave. 630-953-3400.

IN FINE SPIRITS

7 p.m.: Prelude to the Oscars. Sample California wines and vote for your favorite. Includes appetizers. \$40; 5418 N. Clark St. 773-506-9463.

5 burgers for \$5 and under



Aberdeen's house burger
FILE FOR METROMIX

ABERDEEN

\$2 house burgers, \$2.50 Miller pints, \$5 bombs, \$5 Effen cocktails; 1856 W. North Ave. 773-772-5500.

CASEY MORAN'S

\$1 burgers, \$3 Absolut cocktails, \$6 20-ounce Absolut lemonades, \$15 Bud Light buckets; 3660 N. Clark St. 773-755-4444.

CITIZEN BAR

\$3 burgers and chicken burgers, \$3 domestic bottles; 364 W. Erie St. 312-640-1156.

THE FULL SHILLING PUBLIC HOUSE

\$2-\$3 burgers, \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 Stoli cocktails, \$3.50 black and tan pints; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330.

GALWAY ARMS

\$5 half-pound bacon and cheddar burgers; 2442 N. Clark St. 773-472-5555.

More online!

Check out cheap burgers-and-beer combo deals in our Recession Guide on metromix.com.

JUNIOR'S

35-50 cent wings, \$3 domestic drafts; 724 W. Maxwell St. 312-421-2277.

KENDALL'S PUB

\$1 domestic bottles, \$5 grape and cherry bombs; 2263 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-348-7200.

THE LIBERTINE

\$5-\$6 cocktails, \$5 bombs and import beers, \$4 domestic beers; 1615 N. Clybourn Ave. 312-654-1782.

MYSTIC CELT

\$1.50 mini-cheeseburgers, \$2.75 Miller Lite pints, \$5 margaritas, \$14 Coors Light buckets; 3443 N. Southport Ave. 773-529-8550.

RANALLI'S ON CLARK

\$6 jumbo margaritas; 2301 N. Clark St. 773-244-2300.

ROCKS LINCOLN PARK

\$5 martinis; 1301 W. Schubert Ave. 773-472-7738.

SPOON

\$2 domestic bottles, \$3 import bottles, \$5 Jager bombs; 1240 N. Wells St. 312-642-5522.

THE SPOT

7:30 p.m.: Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers. Costumed female actors perform for a panel of local celebrity judges. Specials include \$2 off any food item. An optional \$20 package includes a hosted bar from 7:30-9:30 p.m.; \$5-\$20; 4437 N. Broadway. 773-728-8933.

THEORY

\$6 select cocktails; 9 W. Hubbard St. 312-644-0004.

TRANSIT

DJs FLX, Monna, Julius

the Mad Thinker, Emaculate and guests spin 10 p.m. \$5-\$10; 1431 W. Lake St. 312-491-8600.

UNCLE FATTY'S RUM RESORT

Flippy cup contest 9 p.m., \$2 Bud Light cans, \$4 SoCo Lime shots, \$5 Bacardi cocktails. No cover; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

VICTORY LIQUORS

8 p.m.: Dirty Bingo. The popular board game gets a raunchy reworking at this monthly bash. The \$10 cover buys players 10 Bingo boards and one drink (each additional board costs \$1; every \$10 board comes with a drink). Includes prizes and drink specials such as \$4 Miller Lite pitchers, \$4 martinis and \$5 bombs. \$10; 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

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By **Kent Green**
FOR REDEYE

These Are Powers lives for originality. So much so that when the band started out, it named a new genre for its sound: “ghost punk.” It’s an apt name; the band’s music escapes easy description. Singer Anna Barie’s voice doesn’t have range, it’s got personalities. Her tone leaps from injured yelps to disturbed howls, then drops to sinister growls. As she careens through her work, Pat Noecker uses his reverb-laden bass and drum-

chitunes

These Are Powers
When: 10 p.m.
Feb. 27
Where:
The Hideout,
1354 W. Wabansia
Tickets: \$10,
773-227-4433

mer Bill Salas attacks the drums, straddling the line between tribal and industrial sounds. And the whole time, they maintain a sense of fun and—somehow—rhythm. “We like to bend the form of what a song is, but also get it to a point where it can be saturated with hooks and it can be something you can dance to,” Noecker said. Brooklyn-based Noecker and Barie came together with Salas when Salas’ former band, Brenmar, opened up

for TAP at the Empty Bottle in 2006. When TAP’s old drummer left, they contacted Salas, who lived in Chicago (the band now splits time between here and Brooklyn). The group, whose album “All Abroad Future” dropped Tuesday, bonded over its desire to expand the bounds of what rock could and should be. “We were losing our interest in the typical rock band setup,” Noecker said, “where the drummer sits down and plays a lot of high-hat and snare and the bass player and guitar just provide the melody. It’s more rewarding when it sounds fresh.”

KENT GREEN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

On the download Top downloaded songs from Feb. 10-17

Chicago Top 10

No.	Song, Artist	LW
1	“Single Ladies,” Beyonce	1
2	“Right Now,” Akon	2
3	“Whatever You Like,” T.I.	3
4	“Heartless,” Kanye West	10
5	“Hot N Cold,” Katy Perry	4
6	“Just Dance,” Lady GaGa	7
7	“Dead And Gone,” T.I.	5
8	“Poker Face,” Lady GaGa	11
9	“Let It Rock,” Kevin Rudolf	6
10	“Rehab,” Rihanna	9

National Top 10

No.	Song, Artist	LW
1	“Single Ladies,” Beyonce	2
2	“Right Now,” Akon	1
3	“Whatever You Like,” T.I.	3
4	“Heartless,” Kanye West	8
5	“Rehab,” Rihanna	5
6	“Just Dance,” Lady GaGa	7
7	“Let It Rock,” Kevin Rudolf	6
8	“Dead And Gone,” T.I.	10
9	“Mad,” Ne-Yo	12
10	“Hot N Cold,” Katy Perry	4

LW INDICATES LAST WEEK’S CHART POSITION / BIGCHAMPAGNE.COM



A photograph of three business professionals in an office setting. On the left, a man with short blonde hair, wearing a light blue checkered shirt and a grey tie, is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the center, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red blazer, is smiling and looking towards the camera. On the right, a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie, is smiling and looking towards the camera. They are all standing in front of a brick wall. A small orange light fixture is visible on the wall behind them.

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9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

ANDREW AND CASEY CALHOUN
5:30 p.m. \$5. Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.

THE AVATARS, THE PALE FIGURES, JESSICA ROBBINS
9 p.m. \$6-\$8. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

BRAD COLE, DAN HUBBARD, MACGUFFIN
9 p.m. \$7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

CAW! CAW!, BRIGHTEN UP, PARALYZE HUMANITY SEQUENCE
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. mpshows.com

CHEER ACCIDENT, THE LONESOME

ORGANIST, THE NETHERFRIENDS
8 p.m. \$5-\$7. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

CHICAGO BLUES JAM SESSION
8:30 p.m. Free. Catcher's Inn, 901 W. 35th St. 773-869-9411.

CONDUCTIVE ALLIANCE, SEE DIAGRAM
9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

CYRUS CHESTNUT TRIO
8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

DHF EXPRESS
7 p.m. \$5. Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-243-9088.

DISAPPEARS, THE LANTERNS,

Metromix's top shows

BLITZEN TRAPPER
Pacific Northwest band embodies their roots with a '70s-influenced sound that's woodsy and sunny. With Alela Diane.
7 and 10 p.m. \$12-\$14. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

COMPANY OF THIEVES
Read our interview with these local pop-rockers at metromix.com. Barcelona opens, Thriving Ivory headlines.
9 p.m. \$13. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

CLOCK HANDS STRANGLE
9 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

EDDIE SHAW AND THE WOLF GANG
9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD, HILLIARD ENSEMBLE
7:30 p.m. \$30. Harris

Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive. 312-334-7777.

ELAINE DAME
9 p.m. \$8. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

ELEFANTE, NUVIA
9 p.m. \$28-\$33. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.



Blitzen Trapper

BOB NANNA
A prime candidate for the soundtrack to "Garden State 2." You know, if that existed. With Sleep Out, The Vega Star.
10 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

ENRIQUE BUNBURY
9 p.m. \$37.50. Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave. 312-559-1212.

FEBRUARY SKY
7 p.m. \$5. Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.

GERARDO PEREZ
7:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. The Morse Theatre, 1328

Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

GRAZYNA AUGUSCICK AND PAULINHO GARCIA
8 p.m. \$7. Katerina's, 1920 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-348-7592.

IRON VEIN, THREE YEARS HOLLOW, BASEMENT, BEFORE THE SUN,

ASK YOU IN GRAY
8:30 p.m. \$5. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

JAMES WHEELER BLUES JAM
9:30 p.m. \$5. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

JOHN WESLEY'S BAND, DAVID TOMALOFF
9 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

MAKEOUT PARTY, THE REMEMBERWHENS
8 p.m. Cover varies. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

MUCCA PAZZA
9 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

NANETTE FRANK
7 p.m. \$10. Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center, 1060 E. 47th St. 773-285-1211.

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
7:30 p.m. \$17-\$42. Rialto Square Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet. 312-559-1212.

SHIRLEY JOHNSON BLUES BAND
9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

SONIC INERTIA QUINTET
9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

THE STACKS, ATHENS, KEITH AND THE COMPLICATIONS
8 p.m. Cover varies. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

WE ARE THE UNION, THE A-GANG, RULE 22
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Brides shop on a budget

Chicago Tribune

After visiting two boutique bridal salons in Chicago, Marti Fernandez knew the chemistry just wasn't there. "They were so sterile and unwelcoming," said the 26-year-old spa owner, whose wedding is July 11. "One wouldn't let me take pictures of [a gown], and how am I supposed to order it if my mom can't see it? I asked myself, 'Why am I putting myself through this? It's not that fabulous!'"

Other brides are drawing a similar conclusion as they shop for gowns in an era when not just cash, but also time, is precious. They want to do away with the epic, angst-filled order-and-wait tradition. "I'm the bride who wants to do it in one day and get it done," Fernandez said.

Which brings us to her third stop: White Chicago, an upscale, gallery-like consignment shop in River North (222 W. Huron St., 312-397-1571, whitechicago.com) that sells new, sample and once-wed designer gowns for a fraction of the retail price. For her Indian/American wedding—her fiancé is Indian—Fernandez found a designer gown there for "less than half the price I expected it to be." She will change into it after her ceremony, for which she is wearing a maroon lehenga. Her gown budget was \$5,000. "I got both for under \$3,000."

Whatever the budget, wise brides can whittle the white-gown process into a cheaper, faster one—and still get a dress of their dreams. Here are five fresh ways to do so.

Buy secondhand, online

In April, White Chicago is adding Web sales with whitexchange.com, upholding the same premium standards for consignment gowns that the store has. (The gown must be more than \$1,500 retail, less than 3 years old and have its designer labels intact.)

Beyond eBay, another online source for gowns is the wittily named I Do Now I Don't (idonowidont.com), hatched out of one guy's broken engagement. Mainly a source of luxury engagement rings sold auction-style, it also carries some dresses.

Drop the word "wedding" from your shopping vocabulary

The line between bridal and evening gowns is blurring.

"Type 'long white dress' on Google, because once you call it a wedding dress, the price

goes really high," said Andrea Linett, creative director for Lucky magazine. "People didn't used to make evening dresses that are white; now they're all over the place."

Check out sites like edressme.com or promdressshop.com. Dare to enter the prom dress sections at department stores. Peruse the bridesmaid dresses at department stores or specialty shops like David's Bridal and ask if they come in an ivory color.

Go vintage and restyle

Take another look at Mom's or Grandma's gown and consider the possibilities for restyling. At Minx Parlor, a European shoe boutique (750 N. Franklin St., 312-643-5333, minxparlor.com), owner and designer Jenni Bird recently

J.Crew wedding dresses let you skip the bridal salon experience, should you so choose.



Ursula Guyer (right) advises a client at White Chicago, a gown consignment shop that is adding an online component. White Chicago gowns must be more than \$1,500 retail, less than 3 years old and have designer labels intact. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE FILE**

launched a service that helps brides-to-be restyle vintage couture pieces at a budget-friendly price.

Shop sample sales

Saks Fifth Avenue is hosting bridal sample sales now through the end of the month across the country, including at the 700 N. Michigan Ave. store, with up to 50 percent off gowns from designers including Vera Wang, Reem Acra and more. (Tip: Open a Saks account when you purchase a gown to save an additional 10 percent.)

From Feb. 24 through March 1, Macy's State Street store is hosting its semiannual bridal gown sample sale, with up to 75 per-

cent off sample gowns and accessories from Lazaro, Anne Barge, Romona Keveza and more. Appointments are suggested; call 312-781-3545.

The next Running of the Brides sample sale won't be until July 24 in Chicago at the Filene's Basement on State Street. (But there's one in New York on Feb. 27.) Check filenesbasement.com/bridal.

Buy non-designer

By now, most people are familiar with J.Crew's bridal gowns—not inexpensive but they will spare a bride some of the pomp of shopping at a bridal salon. Isaac Mizrahi for Target also has a few white gowns online and on sale now—the most expensive one was \$79.99 at last check. And the David's Bridal chain (davidsbridal.com) is the refuge of many a bride on a budget.



More brides planning to scale back

Los Angeles Times

Does anyone hear just one wedding bell? That's right, even brides-to-be are re-evaluating their budgets in this recession.

About 25 percent of couples plan to slice their wedding budgets in half, and 1 in 10 intend to cut back costs by 75 percent, according to a nationwide survey recently released by retailer David's Bridal. Does that mean open bar for just 20 minutes?

The "What's on Brides' Minds" poll also revealed that 53 percent do not



plan to spend more than \$25,000. The Association for Wedding Professionals estimates that in 2008 the average wedding cost \$21,000 to \$24,000, although the Association of Bridal Consultants puts the figure closer to \$35,000. A significant 34 percent of brides-to-be have a much lower figure in mind, telling pollsters that they do not plan to spend more than \$10,000 on a wedding.

And if a scaled-down wedding just doesn't appeal, here's a recession-proof proposal: "Honey, will you elope with me?"

Cut the extras—but not too much

Chicago Tribune

Many items can be cut from a wedding budget and most guests will not notice.

"There are extras you absolutely don't need," said event planner Kara Underwood, owner of Magnificent Milestones in Chicago.

Cut party favors, she suggested, because they are often left behind or ignored by the guests. Even though the wedding industry promotes party favors as a tradition adored by guests, they "also cheapen the table," Underwood said.

Many other items can be crossed off the list. Here are 10 common wedding items, with advice on what to keep and what to cut.

CUT IT



Ceremony decor: Flowers and elaborate decorations are not needed. "Most churches or venues are beautiful on their own," Underwood said. Add in the bridal party and bouquets, she said, and decorations will not be noticed.

Late-night snack: Serving a 10:30 p.m. snack has become trendy, but Underwood said this pulls guests off the dance floor at the height of the party. "Totally unnecessary," she said.



Two dresses: TV brides are wearing one dress to the ceremony and a second to the reception. Underwood said this idea should be cut. "Most brides don't have the budget for that."

Personalized napkins: "It's the same as favors: It's out and not worth your money," Underwood said.

Elaborate centerpieces: Couples should not feel obligated to have pricey floral centerpieces at each table. Underwood said she sees many weddings with candles used as centerpieces.

Pricey paper: Engraved stationery with the bride's maiden and married names is old-fashioned. Des Plaines' Erin Sarris, 25, who married in November, didn't bother with either. She also didn't spend money on a save-the-date card and instead created a free wedding Web site at ewedding.com.

KEEP IT



Nice invitations: For guests who can't make the event, Underwood said this is their one interaction with the wedding. "Even if you're on a budget, you can still use colors and get your guests excited," she said.



The champagne toast: "I wouldn't cut a champagne toast. [Champagne] goes hand and hand with a good toast," Underwood said.

The bar package: "Being greeted with a drink is key," Underwood said. Brides on a budget can offer an open bar during the cocktail hour but switch to wine service during dinner. Another option is to offer just beer, wine and a signature drink that matches the season, Underwood said.



The photographer or videographer: While a photographer or videographer should be kept, ditch the posed family photos that take time away from the party. Underwood said that the posed family shots are not very common and that couples now prefer candid photos.

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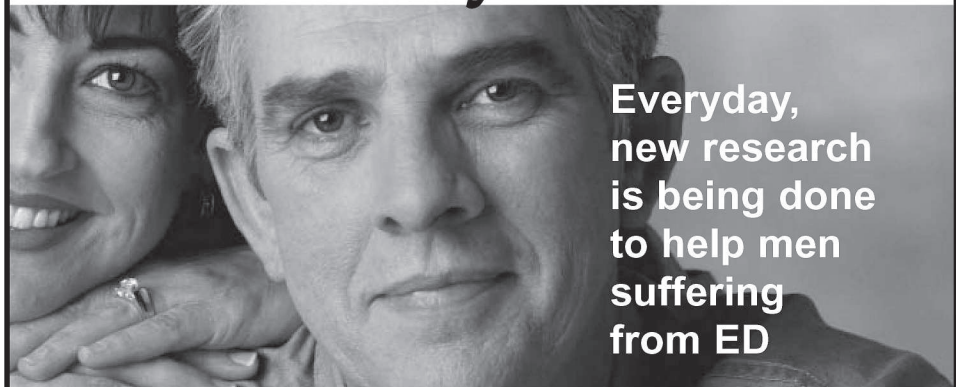
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Stay on budget when popping the question

Associated Press

Don't despair if two months' salary won't buy your sweetie that diamond solitaire she's been eyeing. Here are some engagement ring trends that won't break the budget.



Tacori's eternity band
AP

Choose an alternative metal

Platinum certainly has come down in price, but palladium and white gold are much cheaper. Palladium costs 75 percent less and white gold is 45 percent less than platinum, said Summer Krecke, deputy editor of weddingchannel.com.

"If you are wearing the ring, no one's going to be able to tell the difference," she said.

Consider one ring

Many women are choosing a ring that can serve as an engagement ring and wedding ring, regardless of budget constraints, said Harry Glinberg, a graduate jeweler gemologist in Wauwatosa, Wis.

"Initially it's going to cost you more because you're paying for more," Krecke said. "You're really saving money in the end."

Consider a clarity-enhanced diamond

There's no such thing as a completely flawless diamond, but a clarity-enhanced diamond is 50 percent to 60 percent cheaper than a natural, nice-looking diamond, Glinberg said. On a clarity-enhanced diamond, the fractures or inclusions are filled.

Make sure a graduate gemologist looks at whatever diamond you are purchasing, Glinberg said. Unfortunately, not all jewelers are honest, and they may try to pass a clarity-enhanced diamond as natural.

Upgrade later

If you're really short on funds, purchase a cubic zirconia ring and upgrade later, Glinberg said. He advises against Mossainite, a mineral that looks similar to a diamond.

"It's less expensive than a natural diamond

but still pricey for a fake diamond," he said.

He said it's better to wait and spend money on the real thing.

Go for a colored stone

Spend 10 percent of the cost of a diamond and purchase a colored stone, such as a ruby, emerald or sapphire, Glinberg said. Princess Diana chose an oval blue sapphire engagement ring, though hers was surrounded with 14 small diamonds. (It also was 18 carats.)

"They have that sparkle," said Krecke about colored stones. "If you're looking at yellow sapphires, it looks like a canary diamond."

Consider nontraditional diamonds

Krecke said she has seen a lot of brides opting for halo diamond engagement rings, with small diamonds circling a larger stone.

"It's more cost-efficient. It's timeless and it's still just as beautiful," she said.

She said raw or uncut diamonds are a great option for an individualist. A small rough-cut diamond ring costs as little as \$600, she said.

"They have this really beautiful brown tone that ranges from champagne to light cognac," she said. "It really falls under this whole organic trend we're seeing."

Go for a smaller carat

There are some brides who won't be happy unless a ring is one or two carats, Krecke said. But even a slightly smaller carat can save you money at the register. Purchasing a .90-carat diamond over a 1-carat diamond can save you \$1,000, she said.

"And who's going to know the difference other than your jeweler?"

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Detroit Free Press

Wannabe Klingons, Captain Kirks and Mr. Spocks can raise their hands in a Vulcan salute. "Star Trek: The Exhibition" has opened at the Detroit Science Center.

The 9,000-square-foot exhibition will stay in the Motor City through Sept. 7, meaning it will capitalize on any increased Trekkie interest sparked by the J.J. Abrams-directed "Star Trek" film in May.

The exhibition should excite both casual and hard-core Trekkies with its elaborate set re-creations and authentic series props. So (boldly) go into this celebration of one of sci-fi's most celebrated creations. Here are six things not to miss:

1 FLIGHT SIMULATOR

"Star Trek: The Exhibition" wants to give you an adrenaline rush before you even take the elevator ride to its entrance. The flight simulator straps in two riders at a time with harnesses and takes them on an upside-down journey through the "Star Trek" version of space.

2 ON THE BRIDGE

After viewing jumpsuits worn by Lt. Uhura, Capt. James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock, you'll step onto the re-creation of the circular bridge from the USS Enterprise NCC-1701 in "The Original Series."

3 CAPT. PICARD'S READY ROOM

Peering into Capt. Jean-Luc Picard's Ready Room from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will make you feel as if you're wearing your own "Star Trek" jumpsuit. Picard's quarters hold a dining table, a living room area, a work station and a chaise longue.

4 SAUCER CORRIDOR

When you step from the bending corridor of the USS Enterprise into the room holding the Transporter, make sure you don't miss the case containing crucial "Star Trek" gadgets like the tricorder and the communicator, which is thought to have inspired the modern-day flip phone.



5 THE TRANSPORTER

Find out what it really looks like to get beamed up. As you step into the famous "Star Trek" transporter, watch as the screen on your right dissolves your image. Be sure to congratulate Scotty afterward.

6 USS ENTERPRISES

Catch the starship models filmed in the "Star Trek" series. There's the greenish Klingon Vor'Cha Class attack cruiser from "The Next Generation" and the blue-and-white Starship Excelsior piloted by Capt. Hikaru Sulu in "Voyager." The most eye-popping prop sits in a neighboring case: the USS Enterprise NCC-1701D seen flying throughout the seven-season run of "The Next Generation."

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Sister Souljah ponders love

Detroit Free Press

She is the literary hero of the hip-hop generation. Sister Souljah—best-selling author, activist, educator, mother and wife—is touring the country promoting her latest novel, “Midnight: A Gangster Love Story.”

Born and raised in a public housing community in the Bronx in New York, she broke out of poverty after attending an advanced placement summer program at Cornell University. Later, while attending Rutgers, she began writing opinion pieces. Her commentary eventually led to a rap music career and sometimes controversial commentaries on race relations.

Sister Souljah recently chatted about her new book, its African-Asian love story and its hero, a Sudanese immigrant called Midnight.

Was it a challenge to speak in a male voice in this story?

If you’re a great writer, then you should be a great listener and you should be a great observer, and so I think when a good writer sits down to write, they’re able to recall certain nuances of particular groups of people or races or genders or cultures. You have to abandon yourself and write who the character is. If you aspire to be a great writer, a powerful writer, you have to be able to come out of your space, out of your shoes and literally jump into someone else’s whether it’s male or female or black or white.

Of the many African countries, why did you focus on a family from the Sudan?

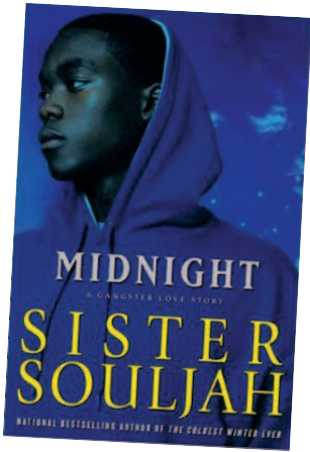
Since I was a student, I always was concerned about African images here in the school systems, the curriculum and the media. They were always dirty and tragic and focused on war, death, poverty, hunger, disease and animals. I wanted to tell the truth about African culture, which meant I wanted to show that in every single African country, there was a culture that came before war, that came before tragedy, poverty and even the animals.

Why is the book subtitled, “A Gangster Love Story.” Midnight is not a gangster.

He wasn’t. It’s not subtitled, “A Gangster’s Love Story.” It’s “A Gangster Love Story.” He would do anything for his mother, his sister, for his woman. His love was gangster.

Are there any tips you’d give to other women?

It’s important to always learn, always be in the process of learning something and to not waste your time. To not spend a lot of time watching television, gossiping or just wasting time. From a young age, find out what you like and begin the process of perfecting your talents and skills so you’re putting yourself in a position of being able to own your own business.



ABOUT THE BOOK

“Midnight” is not a sequel to Sister Souljah’s “The Coldest Winter Ever.” The new story centers on Midnight, a man-child rooted in the religious traditions of his native Sudan. Those roots hold him steady as he grows into adulthood in a poor New York neighborhood, where he cares for his mother and sister and falls in love with a wealthy Japanese teenager.

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MORNING NEWS
WGN 9
Weekdays 5-9am | WGNtv.com

Things that turn us on

MUSIC

"I'm on a Boat"

Buy at iTunes; video at nbc.com

The Lonely Island—the musical extension of comedy writing from "SNL's" Andy Samberg, Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone—has launched clever novelty videos for years. But the new single from their debut album, "Incredibad," is the first that works just as well without the video and could legitimately stand up to heavy radio rotation. Maybe it's the T-Pain help or maybe it's the almost-believable rhymes, but "I'm on a Boat" sounds just as viable as Eminem's new one.

GLENN GAMBOA, NEWSDAY

WEB

"Ryan Didn't Start the Fire"

youtube.com/watch?v=JPCuwZIJShE

DePaul students Ashley Gorson and Brad Etter spent one "sleepless night" writing lyrics to their "Ryan Started the Fire" video, an homage to "The Office" and its Season 2 episode, "The Fire." It's a hoot, with tons of references to the NBC sitcom set to the tune of Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire." Even star Rainn Wilson tweeted it on Twitter. **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**

>> "The Office" airs at 8 p.m. Thursdays on NBC.



Lonely Island

FASHION

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End Table 22"W x 26"D x 24"H **\$199**
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94" Sofa
\$699



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5 Piece Counter Height Dining Set
Solid hardwood construction and a Saddle oak mission finish. Counter Height Table is 42" x 54" extending to 54" square with 1-12" butterfly leaf, with storage and a shelf above the storage base. The Counter Height Stools feature a tapered leg and shield back styling, and a padded seat upholstered in a brown twill fabric for comfort. Additional Stools and other matching pieces also available at tremendous savings. **5 Piece Set Includes:** Counter Height Table and 4 Counter Height Stools.



Cherry Louis Philippe Bedroom Set
This Louis Philippe styled set is constructed of cherry solids and veneers. **5 Piece Set Includes:** Dresser, Mirror, Queen Size Headboard, Footboard and Rails. 5 Drawer Chest and Nightstand also available at tremendous savings. **Queen Size Sleigh Bed Includes:** Headboard, Footboard and Rails.



Queen Size Bed
\$399
All 5 Pieces \$899

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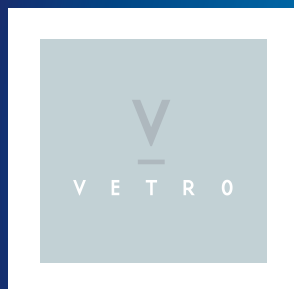
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1402	1 br / 1 ba	684	\$225,900	\$150,000	-34%	\$219
2705	2 br / 2 ba	1133	\$399,900	\$245,000	-39%	\$216
3101	Penthouse 2 br+den/2 ba	1869	\$799,900	\$400,000	-50%	\$214

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G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No one 17 and under admitted

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
(312) 255-9340
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **International** (R) 1:50,4:40,7:45,10:40
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 2:10,4:50,7:30,10:10
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:00,4:10,7:15,10:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 2:00,4:30,7:00,9:30
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:30,3:40,6:15,8:30,11:00
- **Underworld** (R) 2:30,5:00,7:40,10:00
- **Notorious** (R) 1:15,9:45
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 2:45,5:45,8:15,10:50
- AMC Select **Gran Torino** (R) 4:00,6:45

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **The Class** (NR) 3:10,6:30,9:45
- **Che: Part One** (NR) 2:05,5:10
- **Revo Road** (R) 2:00,4:50,7:45,10:30
- **The Reader** (R) 3:15,6:45,10:00
- **Milk** (R) 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:20
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:45,4:40,7:40,8:45,10:30
- **Doubt** (PG-13) 1:55,4:45,7:35,10:10

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **Friday the 13th** (R) ★ 1:30,2:30,4:00,5:10,6:30,7:50,9:10,10:30
- **International** (R) ★ 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:30
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) ★ 1:10,4:30,7:20,10:10
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 1:00,3:50,6:50,9:50
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20,2:20,2:50,4:50,5:20,7:40,10:15
- **Push** (PG-13) ★ 12:50,3:30,6:20,9:20
- **Coraline 3D** (PG) ★ 12:40,3:40,7:00,10:00
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 7:10,9:45
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:45,3:00,5:30,8:15,10:40
- **Underworld** (R) 6:40,9:00
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 1:20,4:10
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 1:50,4:20,7:15,9:40
- **My Bloody Val** (R) ♦ 2:10,5:00,8:00,10:45
- **Gran Torino** (R) 1:40,4:40,7:30,10:20

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **International** (R) ★ 4:50,7:20,9:50
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 4:50,7:40,10:10
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 5:10,7:30,10:00
- **Doubt** (PG-13) 5:00,7:15,9:30

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(773) 582-1839

Show times change daily

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- **International** (R) 1:50,4:30,7:15,9:55
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 1:45,2:30,3:30,4:15,5:00,5:45,6:45,7:30,8:30,9:15,10:00
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 2:10,4:35,7:10,9:45
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:30,4:20,7:05,9:55
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 2:20,4:50,7:20,9:40
- **Push** (PG-13) 1:50,4:20,7:00,9:35
- **Coraline** (PG) 1:30,4:10,7:00,9:30
- **Taken** (PG-13) 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:40,9:50
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:40,3:40,5:50,8:00,10:00
- **Underworld** (R) 4:45,9:35
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 1:40,4:00
- **Notorious** (R) 2:00,6:55
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 2:05,4:10,6:20,8:50
- **My Bloody Val** (R) 6:30,9:00

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
312-846-2800

- **Ballerina** (NR) 6:00,7:45
- **Dance Camera** (NR) 6:00
- **Ashes-Diamond** (NR) 8:15

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 2:00,4:05,6:10,8:20
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:05,5:05,8:05
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) 2:10,4:20,6:25,8:30
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 2:10,6:20
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 4:25,8:40

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **The Wrestler** (R) 5:15,7:30,9:45
- **Animated** (NR) 5:10,9:30
- **Live Actio** (NR) 7:20 P.M.

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(312) 642-7500

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- AMC Select **Fanboys** (PG-13) 3:15,5:25,7:35
- AMC Select **The Wrestler** (R) 2:00,4:30,7:00,7:55
- AMC Select **Waltz-Bashir** (R) 3:40,5:45,8:00
- AMC Select **Rachel Getting** (R) 2:25,5:10

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
847-765-7262

Show times change daily

- **International** (R) 2:00,5:15,8:30
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 1:40,3:30,4:30,6:20,7:20,9:10,10:10
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 1:45,2:45,4:45,5:45,7:45,8:45,10:45
- **Coraline 3D** (PG) ♦ 1:15,4:05,6:45,9:30
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:30,3:40,4:40,7:00,8:00,10:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 1:00,3:20,9:20
- **Push** (PG-13) 1:30,4:25,7:30,10:30
- **Taken** (PG-13) 2:50,5:20,8:00,10:40
- AMC Select **Milk** (R) 2:15,5:10,8:05
- **New in Town** (PG) 1:20 P.M.
- AMC Select **Revo Road** (R) 1:35,4:35,7:35,10:30
- AMC Select **Frost/Nixon** (R) 1:35,5:05,7:55,10:50
- AMC Select **Slumdog Mill** (R) 2:05,4:00,5:00,7:15,8:15,10:25
- **Underworld** (R) 9:30 P.M.
- AMC Select **The Wrestler** (R) 1:50,4:50,7:50,10:50
- AMC Select **Defiance** (R) 4:15,7:25
- AMC Select **The Reader** (R) 2:00,4:55,7:45,10:35
- AMC Select **Gran Torino** (R) 1:10,10:35
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:30,6:15,10:00
- AMC Select **Doubt** (PG-13) 1:25,4:10,6:50

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Friday the 13th** (R) ★ 12:00,1:30,2:30,4:00,5:10,6:30,7:40,9:10,10:00
- **International** (R) ★ 12:20,3:30,7:00,10:05
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) ★ 12:10,1:00,2:40,4:10,5:20,6:50,7:50,9:20,10:10
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 12:40,1:20,3:40,4:20,6:40,7:20,9:40,10:15
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) ★ 11:45,1:10,2:20,3:50,4:45,6:20,8:50
- **Push** (PG-13) ★ 2:00,5:00,7:45,10:20
- **Coraline 3D** (PG) ★ 11:40,2:10,4:50,7:30,9:55
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 12:50,3:10,6:05,8:20,10:30
- **Taken** (PG-13) 1:40,4:40,7:10,8:00,9:30,10:25
- **Underworld** (R) 7:15,9:45
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 11:50,2:50,5:30
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 11:30,1:50,4:15,6:45,9:00
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 12:15,4:30,8:10
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:15

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **International** (R) ★ 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) ★ 1:00,2:00,3:45,4:50,6:40,7:40,9:20,10:20
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 12:30,1:20,2:15,3:30,4:20,5:15,6:30,7:20,8:15,9:30,10:15
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) ★ 1:50,4:30,6:50,9:15
- **Taken** (PG-13) 1:30,4:00,7:00,10:00
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:40,6:10,9:45
- **Gran Torino** (R) 2:20,5:00,7:50,10:40
- **Frost/Nixon** (R) 1:40,4:40,7:30,10:30

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Friday the 13th** (R) 1:30,2:30,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00
- **International** (R) 12:50,3:50,6:40,9:40
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 1:40,4:10,7:00,9:20
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:00,3:45,6:45,9:45
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 1:10,3:40,6:10,9:15
- **Coraline** (PG) 2:10,4:40,7:10,9:50
- **Push** (PG-13) 1:45,4:30,7:30,10:15
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 2:20,4:50,7:20,10:10
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:00
- **Underworld** (R) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 2:00,4:45,7:15,9:55
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 2:40,5:10,7:40,10:05

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Friday the 13th** (R) ★ 1:30,2:30,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00
- **International** (R) ★ 12:50,3:50,6:40,9:40
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) ★ 1:40,4:10,7:00,9:20
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 1:00,3:45,6:45,9:45
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) ★ 1:10,3:40,6:10,9:15
- **Coraline** (PG) ★ 2:10,4:40,7:10,9:50
- **Push** (PG-13) ★ 1:45,4:30,7:30,10:15
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 2:20,4:50,7:20,10:10
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:00
- **Underworld** (R) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 2:00,4:45,7:15
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 2:40,5:10,7:40,10:05
- **The Unborn** (PG-13) 9:55 P.M.

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30
- **International** (R) 11:50,2:40,4:55,7:30,10:05
- **Coraline 3D** (PG) 12:15,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:15
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 12:00,2:10,4:20,6:30,8:40
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:30,4:15,7:05,9:50
- **Taken** (PG-13) 1:05,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 2:00,4:40,7:20,10:00

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.
(847)492-0123

- **Confess-Shop** (PG) ★ 11:40,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:55
- **Friday the 13th** (R) ★ 11:25,12:45,1:55,3:15,4:25,5:40,7:00,8:05,9:30,10:40
- **International** (R) ★ 2:00,4:45,7:35,10:30
- **Coraline** (PG) ★ 11:45,2:25,4:55,7:35,10:00
- **Frost/Nixon** (R) 1:40,4:40,7:30,10:20
- **Gran Torino** (R) 1:50,4:35,7:20,10:05
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) ★ 12:50,4:05,7:15,10:20
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 1:15,4:15
- **Milk** (R) 7:05,10:10
- **Blart: Mail Cop** (PG) 12:20,2:40,5:20,7:40,10:05
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) ★ 11:35,2:05,4:35,6:50,9:25
- **Push** (PG-13) ★ 11:30,2:15,5:00,7:45,10:25
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:20,4:10,7:00,9:50
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:15
- **The Class** (NR) ★ 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:10
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 1:00,4:40,8:20
- **The Wrestler** (R) 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:25
- **Underworld** (R) 12:35,5:25,10:15
- **Waltz-Bashir** (R) 3:00,7:50


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				6	2	8	7	
		9					3	8
		5			6			
4	8				9			
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5	7		8				1	
			7					6

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8 1 6 7 9 5 2 4 3
2 5 3 4 1 6 9 7 8
5 7 1 2 4 9 8 3 6
3 9 4 8 6 1 7 2 5
6 2 8 5 7 3 4 1 9

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

O	L	G	A		S	A	L		M	O	O	R	E	S
D	I	R	E		P	R	O		U	N	F	E	L	T
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O	N	S	E	T	S		S	O	S		S	I	T	E

ACROSS

1 Hayworth film

6 Barely

10 Gore Vidal's Breckinridge

14 Smells

15 Flaming Gorge locale

16 Mr. Knievel

17 Stories

18 "American Gigolo" star

19 Home of music

20 Invented facts

22 Likewise

24 Mister turkey

25 City near Bath

28 Hamlet's friend

30 Full-grown

31 Internet travelers

33 "Prince _"

34 Org. of Lions and Bears

35 Congeal

36 Pass

37 Clothed

39 Jazz style

42 Baseball bat wood

43 Trawling device

44 Tuscany river

45 Woody of cartoons

49 Famous Bell?

50 Well-read

51 Whitewater negotiator

53 Impressive skill

54 Remove flawed ones

56 Brownish purple

57 Mother of Castor and Pollux

59 Draw a _ on

61 Actor Fernando

64 Take a fall

65 One of HOMES

66 PC to PC note

67 London park

68 "Auld Lang _"

69 Annie's dog

21 Into a state of ruin

23 Behaved humanly?

25 Ship's jail

26 Latvian capital

27 Louie in a car

29 Ship's rear

32 Flash on and off

37 Meat jelly

38 Stink

39 Conductor's assistant

40 A single time

41 In need

42 Annex

44 Chilean desert

45 Riches

46 Solar-system mobile

47 Surpassed

48 Soup stalk

52 Holiday seasons

55 Recumbent

58 Gibbon, e.g.

60 Actress Ruby

62 Subsidy

63 Lacking candor

Two Words:
June wedding.



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EVERYONE'S MIND THIS YEAR?



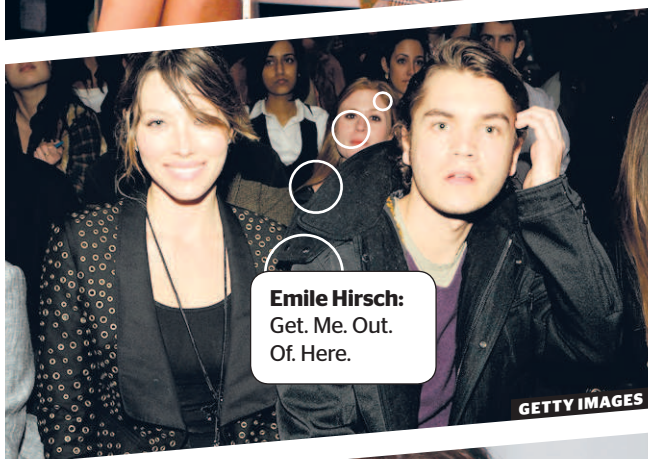
Paris Hilton: Eat your heart out, Victoria Beckham. I am owning this stare.



Eva Longoria-Parker: Is this guy serious about those pants?

Robert Verdi: These documents will come in handy later.

Rachel Zoe: Almost 3 o'clock. Time for my daily snack of Aquafina and air. Mmm ... air.



Emile Hirsch: Get. Me. Out. Of. Here.



Kanye West: Where the devil is that spaceship?



Lindsay Lohan: You win this round, Sam. Next time, YOU have to sit in the press box.



Jimmy Fallon: Steady now, Jim. This pocketed sweater isn't going to rock itself. That's it. Now, turn to the right and ... awkward smile!

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Samberg
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HOW BRO-MANTIC

"Saturday Night Live" star Andy Samberg graces the cover of the March issue of Out magazine... but he's not gay. Samberg says he plays a "bro-gay"—a gay guy with classic bro tendencies—in the upcoming movie "I Love You, Man." He describes the comedy, also starring Paul Rudd, as "a dude-on-dude romantic story that straight guys can feel comfortable watching." "My character knows men really well, and knows straight men really well, because he only [bleeps] them," Samberg tells Out. "I Love You, Man," opens March 20.



Rourke

17

THE DIGIT
Age of actor Mickey Rourke's Chihuahua, Loki, who died Monday. The Oscar nominee thanked Loki and his other dogs in his Golden Globe acceptance speech last month.



Loki

THE VELVET ROPE

Beer, by Kid Rock

Kid Rock is doing his part to help Michigan's economy—with beer. The rocker and the Michigan Brewing Co. are planning to release a new craft beer, according to the Detroit Free Press. The company is investing \$7 million in the project, and it is expected to create nearly 400 jobs. No word yet on a name or style.

Engaged/separated

Rachel Bilson and Hayden Christensen are engaged! The actors, who co-starred in "Jumper," got engaged in December, People magazine reports. In other news, Angela Kinsey from "The Office" has separated from her husband Warren Lieberstein after being married for eight years, **people.com** reports. They had their first child together in May.

Usher's wife released

Usher's wife has been released from a Sao Paulo hospital, The Associated Press reports. Tameka Raymond left the Sirio-Libanes Hospital after 11 days recovering from cardiac arrest suffered shortly before undergoing plastic surgery, a hospital spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Buh-bye, Tatiana

Tatiana Del Toro pleaded for America's votes on Tuesday, but it didn't do her any good. Viewers left her out of the "American Idol" winners' circle Wednesday. Danny Gokey, Michael Sarver and Alexis Grace are the first three "Idol" finalists of Season 8. Del Toro, who **voteontheworst.com** told its readers to pick because of her drama-queen appearances on the show, broke down in tears. Host Ryan Seacrest said "Idol" drew 24 million votes after Tuesday's show, 10 million more than during the same round last year.

txtable

EARLY FAVORITES

Who's your favorite so far on this season's "American Idol?" Text **"fave"** and the number of your pick to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.
1) Danny 2) Michael 3) Alexis
4) Tatiana (bring her back!)

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